

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims and 1 and 4-15 are pending in the application. The claims in general are amended for one or more non-statutory reasons, for example to correct one or more informalities or obvious errors, remove figure label number(s), remove unnecessary limitations, and/or replace European claim phraseology with U.S. claim language having the same meaning. The claims are not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added. Entry after final action is proper because the scope of the claims is not changed and no further searching is required.

The final Office action rejects claims 1, 4 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over International Patent Publication WO 00/34980 to *Voort et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,795,837 to *We et al.* and objected to dependent claim 6 as reciting allowable subject matter. Applicant(s) respectfully traverse(s) the rejection of claims 1, 4 and 7-9. Nonetheless, to expedite an allowance of claim 6, Applicant(s) has(have) cancelled claim 6 and amended independent claim 1 to recite the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 6.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 4 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and a withdrawal of the objection to cancelled claim 6 are respectfully requested.

The final Office Action allowed claims 10-15 over the art of record. Applicant(s) thank(s) the Examiner for allowing claims 10-15 over the art of record.

The final Office action objected to dependent claim 5 as reciting allowable subject matter. Applicant(s) has(have) added new independent claim 16 reciting the allowable subject matter of claim 5, and added new claims 17 and 18 depending directly from independent claim 16. An allowance of new claims 16-18 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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